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SOURCE Hsin-wen Pao. (Information requested.)

CURRENT VIEWS OF CHANG CHIH-CHUNG

At a recent press conference, General Chang gave the following information.

1. Sino-Soviet Negotiations Regarding Sinkiang

"There are three meetings a week between representatives of the Chinese and Soviet governments. Progress is slow and there are as yet no definite results. I am acting only as an advisor in these discussions. The Chinese delegates are: Liu Che-jung, a special delegate from Nan-ching, Liu Meng-t's'un, provincial chief of staff, and I-Min, deputy-governor of the Sinkiang government and concurrently head of the Provincial Reconstruction Office. The two parts to this discussion concern commerce and economic cooperation; there are no questions of territory involved.

"US papers are saying there are hidden clauses, but the history of Sino-Soviet relations in Sinkiang indicates that the agreement now under discussion is little different from that prevailing during the governorship of Sheng Shih-t'ai. While Sung Tsu-ven was president of the Executive Yuan, he prepared a preliminary draft, but the Russians were dilatory and only now have they shown a willingness to open discussions. There are no secret matters involved in the present negotiations."

2. Meeting of the Northwest Military Commanders and Significance of "Sinkiang self-liberation"

"There was no real conference of military leaders, only conversations between the various commanders of the four provinces. The Northwest provinces will carry out the Central Government's plans for peace. The so-called "Sinkiang self-liberation" movement is all a figment of newspaper imagination. It arose from a chance remark of Ma Hung-ta made in Jest."

3. Economic Conditions in Sinkiang

"Conditions are normal. If the Central Government has measures to institute, well and good; if not, we shall have propose our own. With regard

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to the introduction of silver, although gold yuan currency is still in existence, it is a fact that the people are referring to prices in terms of silver. Since there is a mint at Ian-chou and material is available for minting, the use of silver would not be difficult, but Central Government consent is necessary.

4. I-ning Situation

"I am in correspondence with I-ning leaders concerning the matter of a peaceful settlement, but no decisions have been reached."

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